

World History Notes

Africa & Asia in Transition and Trade

Slave Trade

The Slave trade started about 3000 years ago. The need for slaves was crucial in America because most of the natives were killed by disease. Slave trade took place all around the world. Slaves were used for domestic labor.

They became part of the triangular trade in the 16th century, many died in the middle passage from disease.

Sources of Slaves

Europeans got most of their slaves from slave markets off the coast of Africa. In 1526 King Afonso sent a letter to the king of Portugal stating that due to the want for slaves his country was being de-populated. Most African protests were ignored by Europeans and other Africans. Some rulers found it as a source of income and would send raiders into defenseless villages.

Effects of the Slave Trade

It was devastating to the African countries. Their welfare increased as the population decreased. The welfare increase was due to the slave traders needing more slaves to trade.

Traditional Political Systems

During the 16th century monarchy became a popular political system in Africa. Others were like small states tied together by kinship. Many parts of Africa remained small individual villages and West Africa produced more slaves than almost any other area on the continent.

Foreign Influences

Trade routes shifted to the coast, which weakened the Songhai trading empires. Moroccan forces defeated the Songhai army to take over the great trading center of Timbuktu. Muslim beliefs spread south into west/east Asia. English, Dutch, and French attempted to combine their trade with Christianity.

The slave trade in Benin meant that the population declined, war increased, people lost faith in gods, art deteriorated, sacrifice became more common.

Africans engaged in slave trade because it was part of the triangular trade, sale of enemies was profitable, if you didn't trade slaves you became one. They didn't have a choice because their protests were ignored and nobody would help them - slaves = income.

Economic/Political Factors	Effects
Taking slaves for cheap labor	Decreasing population
Local slave traders wanted constant supply	Increased warfare in Africa and between slave traders
Population declined, warfare increased	Lost faith in gods and human sacrifice became more common

*African political systems weren't as affected

The Southwest part of Africa was the greatest source of slaves because the slaves went to Europe and North/South America

Southeast Asia

Emerging Mainland States

As the mainland in Asia started to grow the Thai took control of the southern part of the Chao Phraya River Valley. The Burmese took the Thai capital in 1767, fighting for a few years, but in the end Melaka became the leading power of the region.

Arrival of Europeans

Shift in Power

In the early 1500s the Dutch seized most Portugal ports, seizing most of the spice trade and ports on the Indian Ocean. They began laying out their military over the area and forced the spice crop to be focused (grown) on one island.

Impact on the Mainland

Europeans tried to compete in trade from the 17th century until the end of the Vietnam War. Europeans sided with politics and the non-mainlanders did not.

Religious and Political Systems

Islam and Christianity began to attract converts. Buddhism advanced and became dominate from Burma to Vietnam. Four types of monarchy (Buddhist kings, Japanese kings, Islamic Sultans, and Vietnamese Emperors) existed.

Bureaucracy - body of non-elected government officials.

The Portuguese lacked the military and financial resources to set up anything other than a small base in the Moluccas or impose their authority over broad areas, so instead they made up small settlements along the coast, which they used as trading posts or weigh stations en route to the Spice Islands.

The Dutch established forts in the Moluccas, Ceylon, Melaka, Batavia, Java, etc. They wanted to control the spice trade. They did this by taking over the Portuguese coastal forts, established military and political control.

Malay had less political unity, which disadvantaged them against Europeans who wanted their spices, while the mainland states started defining themselves as distinct political entities and drove out the Europeans.

pg 424 #12, 14, 15, 17